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JUDGING BY MEANS OF COMMITTEE DISCUSSION"

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The fundamental principles of any homemaking activity may be effectively taught by the system of home-economics judging. A very satisfactory variation from the system ordinarily followed is that of judging by means of committee discussion. By this method girls learn to determine the relative value of an article in relation to its quality, cost, and usefulness.

To use this method, divide a group of girls into small committees of two or three members each. Supply each girl with a score card to use as a guide in discussing with the members of her committee the good and bad points of the article being judged. If desired, each girl may contribute an article which she herself has made, such as a dress or a loaf of bread. Having the girls participate in the discussion and offer comments on their own handiwork in this fashion, particularly at local and county achievement days, relieves them of much of the natural embarrassment which is incident to the subjection of one's work to the criticism of others. An oral report should be given by the chairman of each committee. This allows every girl in the group to benefit by learning of the various points taken into consideration in the appraisal of all the articles that are judged.

This same method might be used in conducting home economics judging contests, and would cause home economics judging teams to become an actuality in procedure as well as in name.

In a contest, a committee should be given sufficient articles to judge so that each member will have an opportunity to make an oral report on at least one of the articles judged. If necessary, all committees or teams might judge the same articles, the fundamental principles involved remaining the same regardless of the articles judged.

Those in charge of arranging and selecting the articles for the contest would constitute a committee to rank the girls on their judging ability and skill basing their decisions upon the conclusions reached and the reports given by the girls themselves. Conforming with the new trend of making awards in competitive contests, the girls would be ranked in either A, B, C, or D groups.

This type of judging affords active, direct use of the score card, whether the judging is the very simple type as at a local club meeting or the more formally conducted type used in a State or national contest. It has much educational value because it places before the entire group the thoughts and ideas of all the girls participating. This is particularly significant in connection with a clothing or home-furnishings judging contest in which are involved both the elements of personal taste and those of an article of a constantly changing type.

"The most startling thing in the whole universe is the change one idea can make when it reaches the inside of a man's head." --Elbert Hubbard.

